

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FRIMLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

1896.

During the past eighteen months a large number of new houses have been erected in this district and the number of residents has correspondingly increased. I have therefore estimated the population, in the middle of July, at 6,000: the area of the district being 7,674 square acres.

The number of Births registered was 150 (70 males and 80 females), representing an annual birth rate of 25 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 66, to which must be added two deaths in the Farnham Isolation Hospital and in the County Asylum, of persons belonging to the district, making a total of 68, which represents an annual death rate of 11.33 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Of these deaths, 18 (3 per 1,000) occurred in children under two years of age, and 24 (4 per 1,000) in persons over sixty years of age; whilst between the ages of two and sixty there were 26 deaths, representing a rate of 4.33 per 1,000.

The deaths from Heart Disease have been 12 in number, giving a ratio of 2 per 1,000.

There have been five deaths from Pulmonary Consumption (.8 per 1,000), and seven from other Lung diseases (1.16 per 1,000).

The deaths due to Cancer numbered five, and only two deaths (.3 per 1,000) were attributed to Influenza.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. SCARLET FEVER.—During February and March this disease was notified in four houses at Mytchett, nine children in all being attacked. The outbreak arose in the first instance from contagion at Farnborough Schools. At intervals during the year four other cases were reported in different parts of the district.

2. DIPHTHERIA.—It is satisfactory to note that only four cases of this disease were reported, followed by recovery in each instance. I have given details in the following table:

Persons attacked.	Address.	Date.	Cause.	Remarks.
Boy & Girl	Bridge cottages, Yorktown	2nd June	Overflowing cesspool & foul ditch at back of house	Mild cases, occurring in same house
Boy	High street, Camberley	7th June	No definite cause could be ascertained	An undoubted case
Woman	London road, Camberley	12th Aug.	Imported	Developed a few hours after arrival from London

3. ENTERIC FEVER.—Of the four cases notified, three acquired infection from sources outside the district, and the remaining one was an inmate of the house in which one of the patients was under treatment. Two deaths occurred—the disease in each instance being of a most virulent type. I append particulars of these cases in tabular form.

Persons attacked.	Address.	Date.	Cause.	Remarks.
Girl	Frimley green	21st July	Imported	Virulent case. Died
Woman	Camberley	14th Aug.	Imported	Came to Camberley direct from Florence, disease developed on following day
Girl	Sister of case one	9th Sept.	Infection from sister	Removed to Farnham Infirmary where she died
Girl	Frimley road	21st Oct.	Imported	Removed to Farnham Infirmary. Recovered

4. MEASLES.—Several cases occurred early in the year chiefly at Frimley and Frimley Green, with one death.

5. WHOOPING COUGH.—During the months of April and May this disease was prevalent in the district and caused six deaths. On account of the small attendance, the Infant School at Camberley was closed for two weeks in May by order of the School Board.

6. MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—One case was notified.

7. PUERPERAL FEVER.—A case of this disease was reported; but terminated favourably.

The total number of deaths from the above diseases was nine, which represents an annual zymotic death rate of 1·5 per 1000 of the estimated population.

In all cases where Infectious diseases have been notified, the houses have been visited and steps taken for efficient Isolation and Disinfection.

The District Council has arranged for a Bacteriological examination of all cases of suspected Diphtheria, free of charge.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS.

Arrangements have been made for a systematic house to house inspection of the district, during which I intend paying special attention to the condition of the wells in the neighbourhood.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.—The question of an Isolation Hospital for Infectious diseases has been before the Council on several occasions. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a suitable site, and I regret to say, up to the present time, no ground has been obtained. Negotiations were entered into with the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the leasing of eight acres of land situated not far from the 'Jolly Farmer'; but owing to the high rent demanded, and the many restrictions imposed, the Council did not feel justified in entering into a contract. The Council is fully alive to the necessity of obtaining such a building, and is doing all in its power to meet the difficulty.

With a view to the immediate isolation of any case of Small-pox in the district, the Council communicated with the Crown Land Authorities, and obtained permission from them to erect tents, or temporary buildings, on a spot about half-a-mile from any habitation.

WATER SUPPLY.—I am glad to be able to report that the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company have laid mains through the lower portions of the district. At the present time there are 145 houses connected. The water which is of excellent quality, rises in the deep cuttings of the London and South Western Railway Company, and is conveyed through pipes to a pumping station at Frimley Green, where it is thoroughly filtered through chalk and sand, and is then forced up to a service reservoir on Frith Hill, from whence a constant supply is afforded to the lower parts of the district. It is the intention of the Water Company to supply the higher portions of the district as soon as the demand arises.

SEWAGE FARM.—At frequent intervals throughout the year the effluent from the farm has been examined by the Inspector of the Thames Conservancy, and, on several occasions the samples of water taken, have not come up to their required standard of purity. By the request of the Council, Mr. Beasley, a sanitary expert, inspected the farm and gave an exhaustive report thereon. About the same time a deputation from the Council visited Exeter with the view of seeing the working of the Septic Tank system there; but no definite action has yet been taken thereon. It was, however, decided to relay all the drains on the farm at a lower level, and to make a filter-bed of coke breeze, through which the effluent may pass before entering the Blackwater river. These works are now in progress and I trust may prevent further complaints.

FRIMLEY DRAINAGE.—A new sewer has been laid for the efficient drainage of the houses in Frimley Street, discharging on to a sewage farm four acres in extent. Steps for the surface drainage of this street are about to be carried out, and at the same time the old surface drain, into which sewage at present percolates, will be taken up.

BRIDGE COTTAGES.—These cottages being in a low lying part of the district are not connected with the general sewerage system. An attempt was made this year to remedy the defect by constructing a sewer to open into a large closed tank, from which it was proposed to pump the contents along other pipes to the sewage farm. The scheme, however, was found to be impracticable owing to the number of springs existing there, and the works had to be abandoned. It has since been decided to cause the owners of the cottages to provide proper earth closets, and these are now being built. As there was no good water supply to any of the houses, the owners were served with notices to lay on water from the mains. These have now been complied with.

At the back of these cottages there is a ditch which has been used for the carrying away of surface water from the main road, and fields adjoining. The ditch is in a dirty and filthy condition, and it has been decided to divert the road water, and then endeavour to have the ditch either filled up, or thoroughly cleansed.

PEMBROKE COTTAGES.—At the beginning of the year these cottages were condemned as being unfit for habitation. They were closed for some time; but eventually sold. The purchaser entirely renovated them, built new water-closets, connected the drains with the main sewer, and laid on water from the mains. After inspection they were permitted to be occupied again.

As a result of the adoption by the Council of the Private Street Works Act, new sewers have been laid in Gordon Road and The Avenue, and the making up of several Private Streets is about to be commenced.

It has been decided to improve the system of Scavenging carried out during the past year, by requiring the occupiers of houses to provide suitable dust-bins, easy of access to the scavenger—fixed days being arranged for collecting, and the district divided into sections for the purpose.

The lighting of portions of the district has been considerably improved during the year.

Over 10,000-ft. of curbing has been laid down, and some of the main foot-paths have been improved by gravelling, etc.

The repairs to the Basingstoke Canal, and the subsequent re-filling with water, have removed the causes of complaint mentioned in last year's report.

It is proposed to build a Mortuary in a central part of the district and endeavours are now being made to find a suitable site for the same.

Many complaints have been received regarding a Gipsy encampment at Mytchett, and a deputation from the Council waited on the Local Government Board with the object of obtaining permission to frame Bye-laws to enable the Local Authority to deal with the matter.

The Bye-laws relating to the district generally are at present under revision.

VACCINATION.—From inquiries I have made, I find that there are only 10 or 12 children unvaccinated whose parents object to the same.

The Royal Albert Orphan Asylum has now set aside two attics in the east end of the building for the isolation of infectious cases. There is a room between the two dormitories from the window of which a rope is stretched on an incline, reaching the ground some distance from the building. A bucket runs, by means of a pulley along this rope, and excreta, etc., from the dormitories in question, can be sent down, without passing through the building in any way. A large open excavation between the building and the kitchen garden, where the emptyings of the earth closets were put, has been cleaned out and filled up, and places further off are now used. In the dormitories the area per bed is from 25 to 30 superficial feet. The air space per head is in no case under 300 cubic feet. During the year the health of the inmates has been very good.

I attach Tabular Statements of Births, Deaths and Sickness, on the forms prescribed by the Local Government Board.

THOMAS WALCOT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

(A) Table of Deaths during the Year 1896 in the Frimley Urban District. Classified according to Diseases & Ages.

Mortality from all Causes.							Mortality from Specific Causes																								
at all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 upwards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
							Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Mem. Cough	Typhus	Enteric	Continued	Relapsing	Ranuncul	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Siegle's	Scrub	Phthisis	Brucella	Paratyphoid	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other diseases	Total		
66	8	10	1	3	25	19	Under 5												1	6				3				8	18		
						5 upwards					1											5	4	12	2		24	48			
Diseases occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.																															
2		1		1			Under 5																								
						5 upwards					1																	1	2		

(B) Table of Population, Births, & of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the Knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896, in the Frimley Urban District.

Population at all ages		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	New cases coming to the Knowledge of M.O.H.											Cases removed to Isolation Hospital.										
Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Colic	Typhus	Enteric	Continued	Relapsing	Ranuncul	Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Colic	Typhus	Enteric	Continued	Relapsing	Ranuncul	Cholera	Erysipelas
5295	6000	150	Under 5		3		1																		
			5 upwards	10	4			4		1									2						

Notification compulsory in District. No Isolation Hospital in District. One at Farnham, for Pauper patients only.